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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [PHUM](#) [SOCI](#) [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [AR](#)

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: PROFILING KEY KIRCHNER-ALLIED PIQUETERO LEADERS REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 0526 (B) 08 BUENOS AIRES 1550 AND PREVIOUS (C) C
0561 Classified By: CDA Tom Kelly for reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

1. (SBU) Summary: Despite sharing the same goals -- job creation, social inclusion, and state intervention in the economy -- the leaders of Argentina's social activist movements, known as "piqueteros," differ on how to achieve those objectives. Indeed, f academic expert on the movement. This cable is the second in a series on this key social movement, which while helping thousands of poor Argentines has also played a role in amplifying the political power of the Kirchners, in part through marches, roadblocks, ar subsequent message will discuss key piquetero opposition leaders. End Summary. Who are the Piqueteros? ----- 3. (SBU) Argent According to 2007 national government statistics, the family aid plan reached 504,784 families, which includes 1,766,744 children. Local pique administration, NK won the allegiance of some piquetero leaders by not restricting their marches and by inviting their leaders to visit the Gov (Barrios de Pie), led by Jorge Ceballos, was also closely allied to NK. Two Barrios de Pie leaders worked in the national government in the mi relations: "they hate each other." Luis D'Elia and the Federation of Land and Housing ----- 5. government's list of candidates for the June mid-terms. D'Elia publicly criticized NK for not meeting with him to discuss his candidates' posit Secretariat (SIDE) chief Hector Icazuriaga. According to press reports, D'Elia wanted between 30 and 40 seats ranging from town council to dep candidate slates were announced May 9 (ref C), with only one spot, fairly low on the list, for his organization (in this case D'Elia's wife). Nonetheless, D'Elia remains publicly supportive of the Kirchn Fernandez de Kirchner (CFK) and NK. In March 2008, D'Elia led violent protests during the government's conflict with the farm sector over CFK' circulating a rumor that former President Eduardo Duhalde, in alliance with farmers and the Clarin media group, was organizing a coup against CFK. In January 2009, D'Elia led a march against the Israeli F 17. (C) Viscerally anti-American, D'Elia was the key organizer behind the "counter-summit" to the Summit of Americas attended by then-Presic transportation costs. Later, during a December 2008 interview with the weekly news magazine "Noticias," D'Elia acknowledged that he received heritage who identifies himself racially as "black," is well-known for his invective-strewn remarks against the urban "white" middle- and u all of them (the oligarchs)" in a clear reference to what he perceived as the wealthy farm sector and its supporters. This rhetoric damaged th he called the political satire program "Big-Brother-in-Law," ("Gran Cunado") a bi-weekly political satire program, to remind the show to ir leaders. The sociologist asserts that D'Elia's punch of a farm sector supporter, which was caught on video during a March 2008 protest, was a ----- 10. (SBU) A former teacher and union member, D'Elia initially ran for the Buenos Aires government in 1997 as a member of former President Fernando de La Rua,s Alianza-FREPASO ticket. With the worsening economy, D'Elia left Alianza and joined the Central Trabaja created for him by NK, according to local press. NK dismissed him in November 2006 shortly after D'Elia expressed public support for Iran and Undersecretariat for Land and Housing), where he conducts daily meetings and acts as de-facto chief managing a budget of 14,500,000 pesos (approximately USD 4.2 million), according to a March 2008 article from "La Nacion." D'Elia was born in 1957 in Buenos A While Persico does not command a large group, he is able to organize the piquetero networks when the Kirchners need them and can be expected to draw at least 2,000 to most marches. In September 2007, Persico participated in a protest outside the U.S. Embassy calling for the release of the five Cuban spies detained in Miami social organizations. In that capacity, he reports to NK in the latter's function as PJ president. The piquetero expert and sociologist we cc did not want the country to be left in the hands of Cobos and his ilk (ref D). 13. (SBU) Like D'Elia, Persico has previous government experience. He served in 2006 as vice cabinet chief for former Buenos Aires Governor Felipe Sola. (Note: In the June mid-terms, Sola won a ns He openly supports the Kirchners, and has received from their governments several grants for projects to improve the living conditions of poor residents of the La Boca area of Buenos Aires Federal District and dialogue into the GOA, rather than march against it. 15. (SBU) Borello founded Los Pibes in 1996 in response to the economic situation and government's social inclusion policies, especially the Ministry of Social Development (directed by NK's sister, Alicia), noting that it had fur tied to true work, Martinez reported that the Kirchner administration carefully monitors each of their projects. She contrasted the Kirchners' participate in community internship projects. 16. (SBU) Borello has limited government experience. He briefly worked in Buenos Aires city gove because he believed the city government was not trying to incorporate the piquetero perspective, but was only paying lip service to the Mothers second-place finish in Buenos Aires province, he is probably wary of being identified too closely with the piqueteros' strident rhetoric and vi